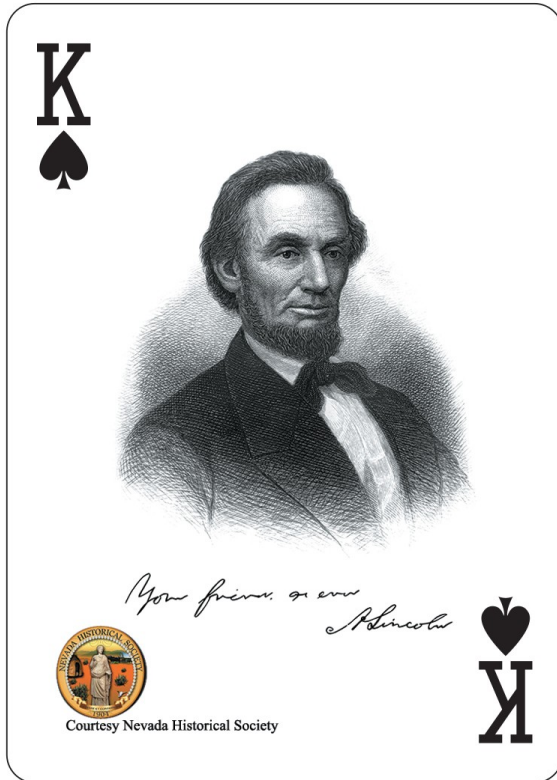


Abraham Lincoln

President at Nevada's Admission to the Union



Nevada is the "**Battle Born**" state because of its entrance into the Union during the Civil War. By the time Congress approved an Enabling Act for Nevada on March 21, 1864, the Civil War was already winding down. The Union had won decisive victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, and the South was in retreat.

President Lincoln sought reelection and faced a three-way race against General John C. Fremont and General George B. McClellan, a Democrat. New states, and their popular and electoral votes, were needed to reelect Lincoln in support of his moderate, reconstruction policies for the South. Among the proposed policies was the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. If Nevada was a state, it could ratify the amendment and help in the passage of this significant legislation.

Lincoln won reelection in 1864, as Union military triumphs heralded an end to the war. In his planning for peace, the President was flexible and generous, encouraging Southerners to lay down their arms and join speedily in reunion. The spirit that guided him was clearly evident in his Second Inaugural Address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds...."

For more information on Abraham Lincoln and Nevada's Statehood visit:

<http://www.onlinenevada.org/articles/nevada-statehood>

